Big XII Football Preview 2000

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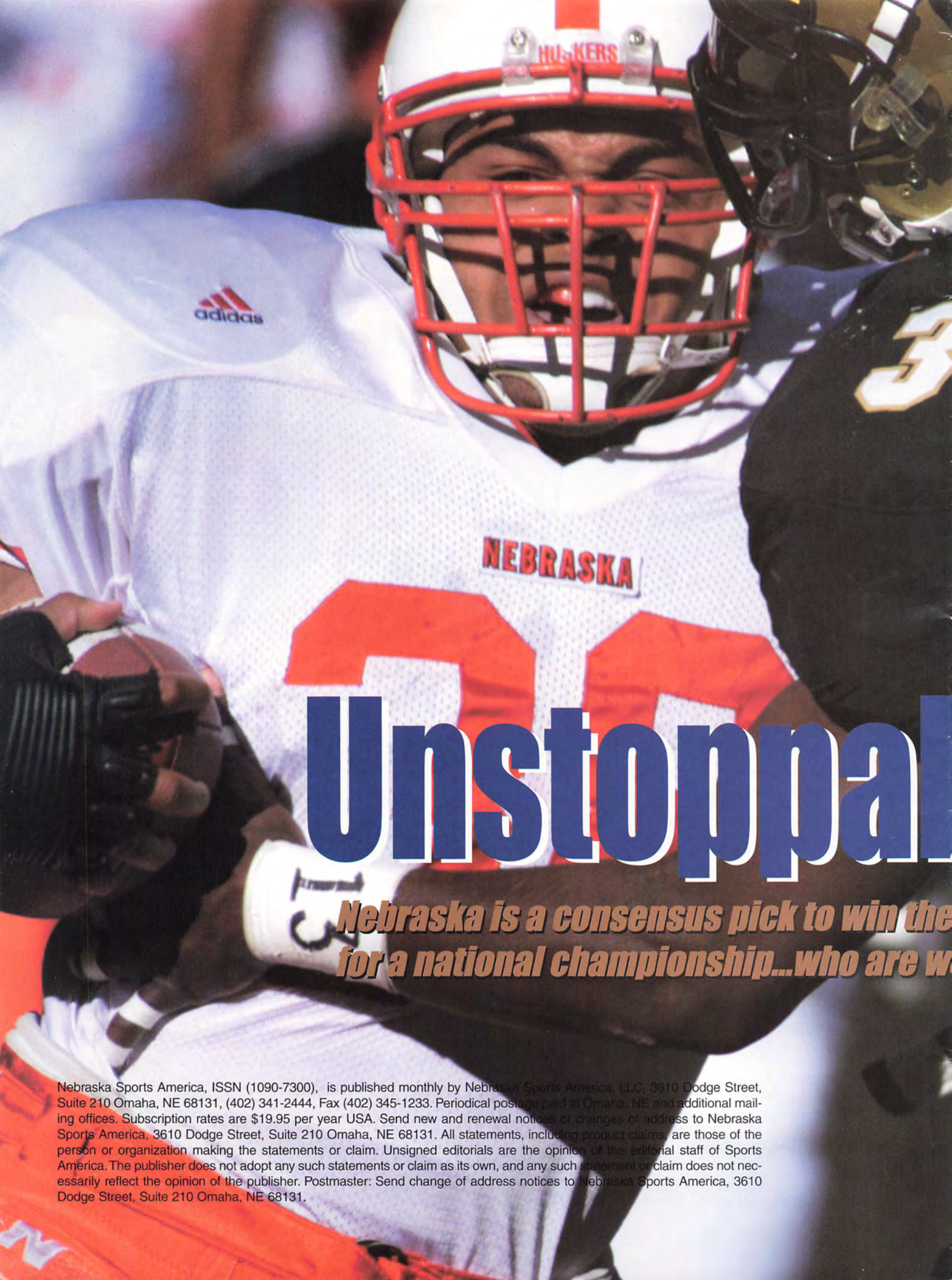

Unstoppa

Nebraska is a consensus pick to win the
for a national championship...who are w

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PHOTO BY ERIC FRANCIS

NEBRASKA SPORTS America
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NSA looks at the Big XII football race this fall with a pre-season forecast of the conference title chase, a stab in the dark at an all-conference team before the first snap of the ball and a tem-by-team look at some of the most intriguing players in the Big XII this season:

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On the Cover: Bobby Newcombe and the Nebraska Cornhuskers are pointing for #1 in 2000; (inset) Oklahoma quarterback Josh Huepel.
Painting by Daniel Albers Oklahoma Sports Information Photo

Your Sports Magazine

Occasionally you meet people with a talent that simply blows you away.

Everyone is blessed with certain talents and, as hard as it is for me to believe sometimes, I've actually been told that my talent in one area or another really fascinated someone. No...really. During my days as a radio sports director, people would go on-and-on about how they could never be on the radio and talk to that many people, etc. Folks equate being on the air with public speaking and I never really explained to them that talking to 500 people, let's say, through a radio microphone is not the same as being on a podium and talking to an audience of 500. The former is easy, the latter makes my knees wobble.

But on the subject is inspiring talent, an artist like Daniel Albers makes me say, "wow." Not a loud, exclamatory "WOW!," but rather a repeated, soft-spoken "wow" as I look through his portfolio of sports art. From water colors to pencil, from football to hockey, Albers has a gift.

His work appears on the cover of this month's magazine, a brilliant watercolor image of Bobby Newcombe pointing to the Memorial Stadium crowd with a "number one" finger held high as the senior-to-be wingback emerged from the tunnel during a game last fall. There is no question Newcombe will be one of the most-watched players for the Huskers this season, one of those pivotal individuals whose performance could be the difference between seasons very good and great.

In the local world of sports art, Albers has to be pretty close to number one. Although he has not dived into it as a commercial venture, Albers has been twice been commissioned by Nebraska Sports America. Last year, he provided art to go along with an article entitled "Driven," which was actually a segment of a fictional work by former Nebraska running back George Achola. His art matched Achola's thinly-veiled story about a midwestern college football juggernaut- it wasn't exactly Nebraska but it sure was close.

Albers work has caught the attention of an Omaha executive with a passion for UNO hockey. An original work by Albers now hangs in a luxurious corner office somewhere high above the downtown din, created on the condition that it be the only one like it ever done.

Your sports magazine this month features a preview of Big XII Football 2000. With the glut of preview magazines jammed into newsstands (Eric Crouch and Dom Raiola are on more covers than Elle McPherson and Cindy Crawford lately), we took some extra time in getting this one out to you so as not to get lost in the shuffle. Hopefully you've fully digested Athlon's and Lindy's and Street & Smith and are now ready for some home cookin' when it comes to Nebraska football and the Big XII race.

Of course, the way the national publications are touting Nebraska as the consensus favorite to win the national title, we are going to have a tough time out "homering" them.

But we'll do our best...enjoy.

PC

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Contributing Editor	Kevin Warneke
Photographers	Bob Berry
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Between The Lines

by JOHN KNICELY

Twist of fortune for unlikely QB duo

Both players grew up watching Nebraska football, both played quarterback in high school and both walked on as receivers hoping that their hard work would eventually be rewarded with a chance to play. Neither expected that opportunity to come so fast and certainly not behind center with more than 22,000 fans watching at Memorial Stadium.

But there they were last April, two redshirt freshmen as green as the protective jerseys they were wearing, barking signals during the spring game.

Brett Lindstrom and Kelly Cook are still amazed by the sudden circumstance that dictated they trade in receiver's gloves for a secreted quarterback playbook.

Lindstrom actually thought he was in trouble when he answered his dormitory phone last February and heard his position coach on the other end. Ron Brown simply is not in the habit of calling his players.

The meeting that followed in Brown's office concluded several doors down the hall with a handshake from Lindstrom's new position coach, Turner Gill. Cook later received the same handshake and immediately began a crash course on how to run one of the most complex offenses in college football.

At the time the spring game was only eight days away. The scramble for added depth at quarterback was precipitated by injuries to Eric Crouch and Jammal Lord along with the transfer of Jay Runty. And although it may be disconcerting for the coaches, the timing was golden for Cook and Lindstrom.

Talk about the impossible dream. Lindstrom had not run an option play since his junior year at Millard West. As a senior he unselfishly lined up at running back per the head coach's request, much like Bobby Newcombe for the Huskers.

But Lindstrom's desire has always been to play quarterback and he has diligently embraced his new assignment. Lindstrom confessed when we spoke that "I even snuck my playbook into class several times." Quick reviews were necessary, even while others dozed during lulls in the lecture.

His most difficult challenge was to make sense of the audible system and with that in mind he carried a conservative approach into the spring game. His goal was to "simply avoid mistakes."

Of course, his play was not flawless but it was steady. The highlights included an eighteen-yard run that set up a touchdown and a 46-yard pass that put another six points on the board.

The play he would like to forget was a keeper from the shotgun formation that ended with a flying out-of-bounds thud. Apparently Lindstrom's off-limits green jersey didn't register with middle linebacker Tony Tata who leveled such a massive hit that it drew a collective groan from the fans.

Lindstrom actually heard the crowd's response as he flew sideways through the air and he's not joking when he says that his tailbone still hurts from the landing.

Kelly Cook also received a crunching initiation blow even though he too wore no-contact green. He was successful in launching a pass but the simultaneous blow from a rushing lineman left Cook in a daze. He then painfully realized that the crowd's excited buzz had nothing to do with his flattened condition. Nebraska quarterbacks are taught to give chase following an interception and Cook gamely wobbled in pursuit. He was glad that a teammate made the tackle ahead of him.

In spite of that rusty throw, Cook respectably connected on half of his eight attempts including a third down completion for eighteen yards that sustained a scoring drive.

But it's the "14 smash" play that stands out in Cook's mind. We know it as a quarterback sneak and although the execution seemed routine the announcement that followed was sweet music to the former Omaha Burke standout: "Cook scoring for Nebraska." He had heard those words many times before but only in his imagination.

What happens next for both players is uncertain but there is the possibility that the two will one day hook up on a pass play. Cook understands his best chance to play may be as a split end and Lindstrom doesn't intend to lose his grip on the quarterback playbook.

Both have four years to make more memories but one page in their Nebraska scrapbook is already in place complete with title: Spring Game 2000.

✦ *NSA*

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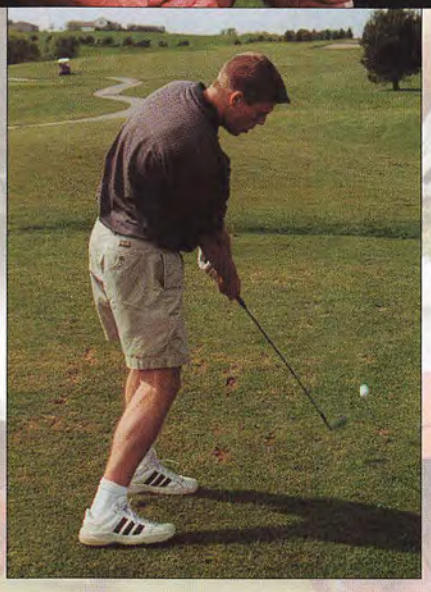
Wally McNaught & Aldie Johnson

Tom, Dorothy & Kathryn Pflug



John Halweg

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6:9-10

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The Rose Parade

from JIM ROSE

Huskers ready to feast on Big XII foes

So enough already! Enough of this business about basketball lottery picks and shoe deals. Enough about women's basketball attendance and how it dwarfs the almighty SEC. Enough about this new baseball powerhouse in red.

Sorry Roy, Quinn, Ricardo, Marian, Jody, Auggie and Dave. You're all good at what you do. But in the Big 12, we do one thing better than anybody. We kick, pitch, run, steal, drop and toss that oblong thing once made out of pigskin.

We're all here at this college sports buffet of money because of THE GAME. The Saturday Services at 70K-seat churches. The rest of you are like The Beach Boys at a Boyz to Men concert. Just keep the place warm 'til the headline act shows.

If you poll the Corn Belt, Big 12 football in 2000 is about a Red Scare. The Kruschev Russians had nothing on these Solich Huskers. General Frank has amassed his troops along the borders of Kansas, Iowa, Colorado and Missouri, with plenty of reinforcements to spill into Oklahoma and Texas. His guys are, well, the same.

Start on offense with a wizard from Omaha at the buttons. Mr. Crouch runs like a cheetah and hits like a Rhino. He's a gifted jock with a heart big as the panhandle. He's played hurt, played well, played bad, played great. He's been hit on the numbers and between the ears, but keeps coming back stronger and meaner and more respected by both sides of the line. An injury free season could mean a Heisman pose for this one.

Eric takes snaps from a 6'4" 295-pound Hawaiian who runs like he never paid attention to what the scale reads. There is a lot to how Raiola and Crouch work together. On one drive last year, Crouch was so edgy, his mouth went dry and couldn't bark the cadence. He whispered the problem to Dominic who promptly provided a fresh supply of saliva. That's love.

Flanked to each side is a rebuilt O-line of established star Russ Hochstein, and budding ones Jon Rutherford and Toniu Foniti. The rest of the Big Red express is a year better, stronger and more confident. The scorers are future NFL types Newcombe, Wistrom and Davison, with slick transfer Thunder Collins poised to return the I-back spot to a leading role in opposing coaches' nightmares.

Talk about The Blackshirts centers these days not on who's back, but who ain't. Gone are nuclear orbs Eric Johnson and Julius Jackson at LB plus the great corner Ralph Brown and perhaps the most underrated defender Lincoln has ever known...rover Mike Brown.

He was to NU what Arizona All-American Chris MacAlister was to the 'Cats in '98. You notice how they didn't exactly replace him? Brown's cleats are the second toughest to find feet for this fall. Second only to Coach Mac's. Charlie McBride became the soul of the defense. His genius went beyond film sessions and strategy talk. He blew the whistle right through the kid's hearts. By kickoff, the Berlin wall couldn't keep them from the ball carrier.

But, eager assistant Craig Bohl paid close attention, has all of the key recipes and is surrounded by super talent. The light went on over Randy Stella this spring and he is ready for an all-conference year at LB. The D-line is superb and end Kyle Vanden Bosch personally so wrecked the offense in spring drills, coaches ran out of adjectives. They settled on unbelievable.

Look for three newcomers to have an immediate say on defense. LB's T.J. Hollowell of Copperas Cove, Texas and Jason Richenberger of Liberty, Missouri, and FS Terrell Butler of Savannah, Georgia, are penciled in.

Throw in the nation's #1 punter, the best kick defense team in the land, a favorable schedule and we'll see y'all on Kansas City's Plaza the first Friday in December to be followed by an encore on Miami's Causeway to start 2001.

So, strap on the helmet, bite down on the mouth guard. Load up the SUV, and honk that horn-that-sounds-like-the-fight-song each Saturday this fall. The flavor of choice at Big 12 tailgating.....what else?

Corn. In the Big 12, it's a delicacy.

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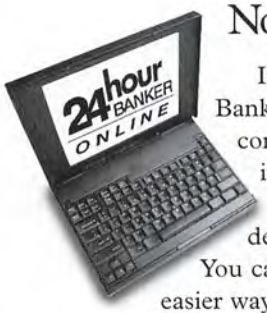

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Big XII Football PREVIEW

NSA's NORTH Division Forecast

1. Nebraska (8-0/11-0)
Best Husker team since 1994-95 will play for a national championship. Non-conference Note: Is the Pope Catholic? Yes, NU plays Notre Dame

2. Colorado (6-2/9-2)
Buffs get K-State and Texas at home and sidestep Oklahoma. Non-conference Note: Welcome back to Boulder Coach Neuheisel

3. Kansas State (5-3/9-3)
Defense will carry the load as 'Cat offense lacks firepower. Non-conference Note: With respect to Eddie Robinson, KSU-Iowa ain't no classic

4. Iowa State (3-5/6-5)
Cyclones win some close ones to keep coaching change at bay. Non-conference Note: Beating the Hawkeyes is actually expected

5. Kansas (2-6/4-7)
Experienced team is still not talented enough to string together conference wins. Non-conference Note: SMU, UAB and SIU...get some No-Doz ASAP

6. Missouri (0-8/1-10)
After its '99 free fall, Mizzou will be hard-pressed to compete this season. Non-conference Note: Michigan State comes to town sans Mateen Cleaves

NSA's SOUTH Division Forecast

1. Oklahoma (7-1/10-1)
It's OU vs. Nebraska in the 'Game of the Century'-albeit a short century so far. Non-conference Note: No sweating until October

2. Texas (6-2/8-3)
Win a big prize at the Texas State Fair and the 'Horns sit atop the South. Non-conference Note: Is Stanford going to be mad or what?

3. Texas A&M (5-3/7-4)
Nice draw vs. the North will help Aggies post winning year. Non-conference Note: Wait your turn Nebraska, A&M gets first crack at the Irish

4. Oklahoma State (3-5/5-6)
These Cowboys are the quintessential middle-of-the-pack team. Non-conference Note: Series with Tulsa has "Dust Bowl" moniker written all over it

5. Texas Tech (2-6/5-6)
Last year's upsets are this year's brutal road trips for Red Raiders. Non-conference Note: Thank heavens for a week off after three phone-in wins

6. Baylor (1-7/3-8)
Improved Bears close the gap, but oh what a gap to close. Non-conference Note: Repeat after me...take a knee this time, take a knee this time...

NSA's Pre-Season Big XII ALL-CONFERENCE Football Team

DL	Casey Hampton	Texas	OL	Dominic Raiola	Nebraska
DL	Shaun Rogers	Texas	OL	Russ Hochstein	Nebraska
DL	Justin Bannan	Colorado	OL	Toniu Fonoti	Nebraska
DL	Mario Fatafehi	Kansas State	OL	Leonard Davis	Texas
DL	Justin Smith	Missouri	OL	Randall Cummins	Kansas State
LB	Carlos Polk	Nebraska	WR	Quincy Morgan	Kansas State
LB	Rocky Calmus	Oklahoma	WR	J.J. Moses	Iowa State
DB	Jarrod Cooper	Kansas State	B	Eric Crouch	Nebraska
DB	Keyou Craver	Nebraska	B	Major Applewhite	Texas
DB	Kevin Curtis	Texas Tech	B	Quentin Griffin	Oklahoma
DB	Carl Nesmith	Kansas	TE	Tracey Wistrom	Nebraska
P	Dan Hadenfeldt	Nebraska	K	Jamie Rheem	Kansas State
UT	Randy Stella	Nebraska	KR	David Allen	Kansas State

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Big XII Preview

NORTH 6

MISSOURI

Smith is the franchise for Mizzou

BY KYLE NAGEL, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI MANEATER

Maybe the scariest thing about University of Missouri defensive end Justin Smith is his T-shirt. Or, at least, the way the T-shirt fails to cover much of his huge muscled frame.

Standing at 6-foot-5 and packing 265 pounds, Smith comes into his junior season at MU tied for the team's single season record in sacks — which he tied with eight in 1999 — and a fierce drive to regain respect after last season's 4-7 Tiger finish.

"I think the defense needs to keep coming along," Smith said. "I think we had a good year last year even though many people don't see it. We have some holes to fill, but some guys are coming up and filling them.

"I think we're going to progress along nicely and be one of the top units in the Big 12."

Leading that unit will be Smith, who has started every game in his two years at MU. The Jefferson City product has impressed coaches from the very beginning and been at the top of the team in most defensive categories both years. The 2000 season looks to be nothing less for Smith, who has already been named to All-American status by publications around the country.

Justin Smith, DE, Missouri

But publications or no publications, the coaches can see what he does on the field.

"All I know is what I see out on the field," MU Coach Larry Smith said. "And what I see is a guy who's playing faster and stronger than the past two years he's been here. He's prepared for a great year, and I think we're going to get a great year out of him."

The new aerial assault the Tigers will show on offense with new offensive coordinator Bill Cubit looks to compliment a more-veteran defense. Some questions lie in the secondary, but the defensive is just like its leader Smith, strong as a rock.

"I see the defense as being where it was my freshman year," Smith said. "I think we're going to come out and dominate with a lot of sacks and be a blitzing defense. We could give up some big plays by blitzing, but I think most of the time we're going to get the quarterback on the ground."

Getting the quarterback is something Smith has learned well is his years in the Tiger uniform. This year, with the new passing offense to practice against, Smith is getting more exposure to pass blocking and giving the MU offensive linemen fits.

"He's the kind of guy that keeps you from sleeping the night before the game," MU offensive lineman Justine Bland said. "I haven't blocked him too well this spring, and I don't expect many people will this season."

As for predictions for the 2000 season, which looks to be the most exciting in recent Missouri years, Smith shies away from comment. He usually does his commenting on the field. But if he's asked to predict, he lets that huge Godzilla grin sneak by. "I don't like to predict things, I just like to do them," he said with a smile that's almost a snarl. ✦ NSA

TIGERS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	WESTERN ILLINOIS (DNP)
09.09	at Clemson (DNP)
09.16	MICHIGAN STATE (DNP)
09.30	**at Nebraska (L 10-40)**
10.07	**OKLAHOMA STATE (DNP)**
10.14	**KANSAS (L 0-21)**
10.21	**at Texas (DNP)**
10.28	**at Iowa State (L 21-24)**
11.04	**COLORADO (L 39-46)**
11.11	**at Baylor (DNP)**
11.18	**KANSAS STATE (L 0-66)**

Big XII Preview NORTH 5

KANSAS

Nesmith carves up the opposition

BY KYLE DONNELLY, WWW.KSFOOTBALL.COM

Carl "The Butcher" Nesmith is considered one of the Big 12's fastest rising stars — and with good reason. He was the Big 12 defensive newcomer of the year in 1999 at a position that he had been playing for only five months.

Nesmith had never even been on the defensive side of the football until he joined the University of Kansas football team in their early August 1999 practices.

Although he transferred from Butler County Community College as a wide receiver, coaches quickly saw his potential as a safety. With a struggling secondary and an already fairly potent receiving corps, coaches gave Nesmith a shot at D-back.

Nesmith's instincts did the rest. He quickly fell into place at free safety and had no trouble making it his home. In fact, he even earned a nickname while he was at it.

His teammates had no problem finding an appropriate title for the dangerous safety.

"The Butcher" is what was decided on. It quite obviously comes from his ability and desire to hit. He is known around the conference — and nation for that matter — as one of the most unforgiving and physical defensive backs in college football. He has had made his share of highlight-reel knockdowns.

KU SPORTS INFORMATION

Carl Nesmith, DB, Kansas

The 6-foot-3, 215 pound Nesmith, doesn't just steam roll wide receivers though. He is also able to weave his way through kickoff teams. He was the third best kickoff returner in the conference last season with his 23-yard per return average.

Not to mention his three interceptions, five pass deflections, and his heroic last-second blocked field goal against Iowa State to preserve a win.

"He's a guy who came with lots of size and speed and athletic ability and motor skills" secondary coach Dick Moseley told *The Daily Kansan.*

While playing in all 12 of the games last season, and starting just five, Nesmith managed to place second on the team in tackles with 89.

Nesmith has changed the image of the KU secondary. Players and coaches now know that when they play the Kansas Jayhawks, they'll need to think twice before running that crossing pattern over the middle — and right through the Nesmith minefield. Teams won't be able to put on the aerial display that they once could against the University of Kansas.

"The Butcher" has the chance to become one of the premier college football players in the country and possibly play in the professional ranks. He has all of the raw materials. Now it's a matter of staying healthy and keeping focused.

One thing's for sure, Jayhawk fans are counting the days until they get to see another one of his picture perfect, jaw-dropping hits. Of course, another one of those last-second, game-sealing blocked field goals would be nice too. ✦ *NSA*

JAYHAWKS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	at So Methodist (W 27-9)
09.16	ALA-BIRMINGHAM (DNP)
09.23	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (DNP)
09.30	**at Oklahoma (DNP)**
10.07	**KANSAS STATE (9-50)**
10.14	**at Missouri (W 21-0)**
10.21	**COLORADO (L 17-51)**
10.28	**TEXAS TECH (DNP)**
11.04	**at Nebraska (L 17-24)**
11.11	**TEXAS (DNP)**
11.18	**at Iowa State (W 31-28)**

IOWA STATE

Goals before dreams for Rosenfels

Sage Rosenfels says it's been a dream of his to play in the National Football League.

Rosenfels very well may get that chance, but first, he wants to end an ongoing Iowa State nightmare. The Cyclones haven't been to a bowl game since 1978, and they've had just three winning seasons since then, and none since 1989. Iowa State was 4-7 last season, with four of those losses by seven points or less.

"It's the last opportunity for me and this senior class to go to a bowl game," Rosenfels said. "That's at the top of our list of things we need to do this fall. We feel, especially after last fall, that we're not that far behind in the game."

If the Cyclones are to advance to postseason play, Rosenfels will be the one who leads them there. The senior quarterback from Maquoketa, Iowa, is the unquestioned leader of the ISU offense, now that running back Darren Davis, the Big 12 Conference's leading rusher, is gone.

It's a far cry from a year ago, when Rosenfels was a leader simply because of the position he plays, not because of what he'd done on the field.

CYCLONES 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	OHIO (DNP)
09.09	UNLV (W 24-0)
09.16	at Iowa (W 17-10)
09.30	**at Baylor (DNP)**
10.07	**NEBRASKA (L 14-49)**
10.14	**at Oklahoma State (DNP)**
10.21	**TEXAS A&M (DNP)**
10.28	**MISSOURI (W 24-21)**
11.04	**at Kansas State (L 28-35)**
11.11	**at Colorado (L 12-16)**
11.18	**KANSAS (L 28-31)**

BY JEFF KING, AMES TRIBUNE

Sage Rosenfels, QB, Iowa State

In his first two seasons, Rosenfels had played in only eight games and had thrown only 19 passes as he served an apprenticeship behind Todd Bandhauer, who was rewriting the Cyclone passing record book.

Last fall, Rosenfels took over for Bandhauer and, after beating out Derrick Walker for the job, he threw for 1,781 yards and 10 touchdowns while completing 54 percent of his passes.

Rosenfels also was ISU's third-leading rusher with 225 yards and four TDs, including a 52-yard scamper on the Cyclones' second play from scrimmage of the season.

"I've led by example, and now I can be even more of a leader because they've seen me do it on the field," Rosenfels said.

The ISU quarterback didn't do much but hand off to Davis for the first three games, as the Cyclones averaged 357.0 rushing yards in those games, all ISU victories, but his passing became a bigger factor later in the season as defenses started to key on Davis by crowding the line of scrimmage with eight or nine defenders.

"I feel like those first three games were a great learning experience for me," Rosenfels said. "I really learned a lot about the whole team, college football and about myself. "I learned that when I'm mentally prepared to come out and practice and play at a really high level, it helps me to perform better. You can't take a day off."

Rosenfels threw for 291 yards and a pair of touchdowns in a 44-41 loss to Texas, then passed for a career-high 332 yards and three touchdowns in a 31-28 season-ending loss to Kansas.

"He had some real good games last year for his first year starting, made a lot of progress, and he's going to be a much better player because of it," Cyclone coach Dan McCarney said. "I think he can be one of the better quarterbacks in the league."

Rosenfels will need to cut down on his interceptions, however. He was picked off 11 times last fall, and several of those were in an opponents' end zone, which snuffed out scoring opportunities.

"It's something we stressed in spring ball that when we get down there, we've gone 60 or 70 yards to get to the red zone and you can't let up," Rosenfels said. "Teams aren't just going to give it to you, so you have to step it up a notch and get it into the end zone." ✦ *NSA*

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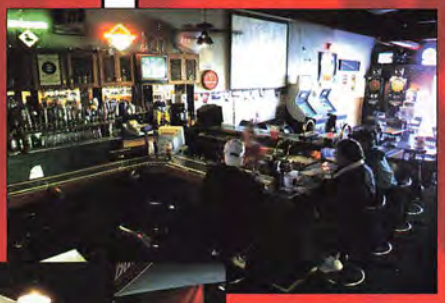

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Big XII Preview NORTH 3

KANSAS STATE

Lockett Legacy continues for 'Cats

BY DARRIN DONNELLY, WWW.BIG12SPORTSWEB.COM

Snyder and Lockett.

The two last names are nearly synonymous with the K-State turnaround.

Bill Snyder is of course the mastermind coach who took the worst football program in the country and turned it into a national powerhouse.

The other name that brings purple to mind is Lockett.

1993 was Snyder's first bowl team. It was also the first year a Lockett was sprinting, leaping and diving for passes at KSU stadium.

As a freshman in '93, Kevin Lockett burst into the Big Eight and national spotlight when his 770 receiving yards nearly doubled the previous Big Eight freshman receiving record. Kevin finished his career as the all-time Big Eight leader in receptions.

Immediately after Kevin graduated in 1996, the Cats signed his little brother Aaron. After a redshirt season in '97, K-State fans were introduced to another Lockett at wide receiver.

Junior Aaron Lockett's career started with a bang. While he may not have had the great hands and leaping ability that Kevin had, he was clearly the speedster in the family. As a freshman in '98, he shattered his older brother's freshman record with 928 receiving yards and averaged 21.1 yards per catch. It was nice to have another Lockett in the K-State receiving corps.

KSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Aaron Lockett, WR, Kansas State

However, Aaron followed in his brother's footsteps in '99. Like Kevin, Aaron suffered through a sophomore slump.

"He (Kevin) told me to watch out," Aaron told the Kansas City Star. "It was hard for me to see it coming because I had never been in that position. I didn't know what he was talking about."

Aaron Lockett's sophomore effort may not have been a great year as far as Lockett's standards are concerned, but he still pulled in 33 passes for 531 yards. Not too shabby for most receivers.

Now K-State fans are looking forward to the 2000 season where there is good news and better news.

The good news is that 2000 will mark the seventh time in the past eight seasons that a Lockett starts as a wide receiver for the Cats. The even better news is that Aaron has, so far, been following closely in his brother's footsteps (if not surpassing him). If he continues to follow Kevin's pattern, 2000 will be Aaron's best season yet.

There are, however, two strikes against Aaron's chances of having his best season to date in 2000.

One, despite what Coach Snyder says, there is a quarterback controversy at K-State. Will returning starter Jonathan Beasley be throwing passes at Lockett or will it be redshirt freshman sensation Ell Roberson III? When two quarterbacks split time, it often causes timing adjustments for receivers which can lead to under or over-thrown balls.

Two, Aaron is just one member of what is perhaps the Big 12's best receiving corps with Quincy Morgan, Martez Wesley, and tight end Shad Meier all offering K-State's quarterback (whoever he may be) with quality targets.

Having a Lockett at wide receiver has become a very comforting fact for K-State fans. With only two seasons left, Aaron will definitely be gunning to close out the Lockett legacy with memorable performances. ✦ *NSA*

WILDCATS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
08.26	Iowa @ Kansas City (DNP)
09.02	LOUSIANA TECH (DNP)
09.16	BALL STATE (DNP)
09.23	NORTH TEXAS (DNP)
09.30	**at Colorado (W 20-14)**
10.07	**at Kansas (W 50-9)**
10.14	**at Oklahoma (DNP)**
10.21	**TEXAS TECH (DNP)**
10.28	**at Texas A&M (DNP)**
11.04	**IOWA STATE (W 35-28)**
11.11	**NEBRASKA (L 15-41)**
11.18	**at Missouri (W 66-0)**

Big XII Preview NORTH 2

COLORADO

Tough schedule sparks McDonnell

BY CU SPORTS INFORMATION

University of Colorado senior defensive end Brady McDonnell still says the best is yet to come.

For himself, but even more so for the future of Colorado football.

"There's a high standard set here at CU," said McDonnell, who enters the season with a team-best 23 career starts. "The last two seasons we've had two bowl wins but I still feel like we haven't won the big games yet, for one reason or another."

"But I think my best game is still to come and I think the team feels the same way."

And McDonnell is making that impression on those outside of the lockerroom as well. Successful Farming Magazine selected him to its preseason All-American Farm Team, honoring those who hail from farming communities. The 6-4, 265-pound lineman from Quinn, S.D., has been twice named honorable mention all-Big 12. He's looking to best that mark this season.

But McDonnell and CU's best will have to come against what many people are calling the nation's toughest schedule. It's hard for anyone to overlook the 2000 slate. Colorado visits Southern California, Texas A&M and Nebraska and hosts Washington, Kansas State and Texas; all schools who will most likely be in top 20 or even 15. And then there is also in-state rival Colorado State, who defeated the Buffs 41-14 last season in Denver.

CU SPORTS INFORMATION

Brady McDonnell, DE, Colorado

"It's a difficult schedule, there's no doubt about that." McDonnell said. "But for a senior, I'd rather have that any day then play a weak schedule. Getting the chance to play these kind of teams, week in and week out, it's like a dream come true. I'm a firm believer that you have to play the best to be the best."

"When you think about college football, this is the type of schedule you dream about playing," head coach Gary Barnett said.

Playing the best is nothing new in Boulder. Twice in the last decade (1990, 1997) the Buffaloes played the nation's toughest schedule, as determined by the NCAA. CU is one of three teams ever to win a national championship playing the toughest schedule in 1990, when it defeated Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl to claim the national championship.

The coach of that Orange Bowl team, Bill McCartney, established a legacy of difficult opponents. The idea was, a tough schedule would produce a tough team. And it worked. Only Florida State ended the decade with more bowl victories and CU finished as the 10th best program of the 1990's.

But failing to finish in the top 25 the past three seasons has been especially difficult for McDonnell. One of just five remaining players from the 1996 team that finished 10-2 and ranked eighth in the country,

McDonnell says that the return to dominance is not an easy one but it's also not impossible.

"It may be more difficult now then say, the mid '80s, to build a dominant program but it still can be done," he said. "And we were there every year. Can we now get back? I can't think about it any other way."

McDonnell, wideouts Eric McCready and Javon Green, defensive tackle Sean Jarne and offensive tackle Tom Ashworth are the last members from the victorious Holiday Bowl team in '96.

"People have to remember we had some pretty amazing athletes back then," said McDonnell. "I mean, Matt Russell, Matt Lepsis, Greg Jones. And then all the superstars before them. Those kind of guys don't come around every year."

"They're big shoes to fill but we can definitely do it." ✦ NSA

BUFFALOES 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	Colo St @ Denver (L 14-41)
09.09	at Southern California (DNP)
09.16	WASHINGTON (L 24-31)
09.30	**KANSAS STATE (L 14-20)**
10.07	**at Texas A&M (DNP)**
10.14	**TEXAS (DNP)**
10.21	**at Kansas (W 51-17)**
10.28	**OKLAHOMA STATE (DNP)**
11.04	**at Missouri (W 46-39)**
11.11	**IOWA STATE (W 16-12)**
11.24	**at Nebraska (L 30-33)**

Big XII Preview NORTH

NEBRASKA

It's now or never for Newcombe

BY KEVIN WARNEKE

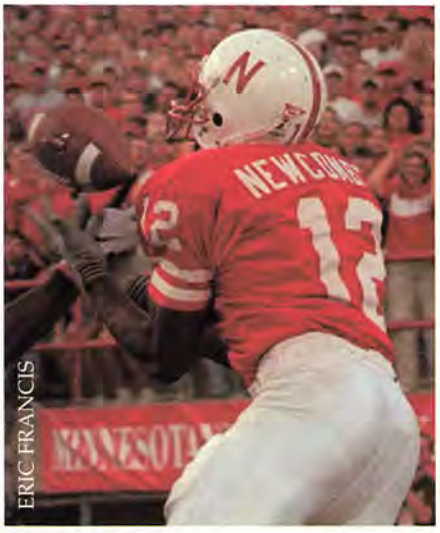
Unlike past seasons, Bobby Newcombe finds himself void of any kind of Husker question mark. He's a wingback - plain and simple, free and clear. He's a triple-threat at his position; he can run with the ball, catch it and even throw it if his coaches call his number.

He can return punts, and is a threat to break one every time an opposing team turns the ball over to Nebraska Newcombeis what every offense needs to keep opposing defenses honest.

This summer, Newcombe wants to focus on the finer points of his game - making key blocks, running precise patterns and setting up his returns. He wants to be ready when the Huskers begin their 2000 season. He wants a summer free of distractions, except for learning to better play his position.

Expectations are high for the 2000 Huskers, Newcombe said, and they should be high. "With the offense we have coming back."

Four years ago, Newcombe's future wasn't so obvious, although it certainly was full of high expectations. He was to lead the Huskers to the promised land — again. He was to be the next Scott Frost and Tommie Frazier.



Bobby Newcombe, WB, Nebraska

Only more exciting. A playmaker.

His first season found Newcombe on what is now familiar ground. He passed on a redshirt season and, after three games as a reserve quarterback, came the first move to wingback.

The coaches wanted him on the field. His talent was such that it shouldn't be confined to the sidelines. Newcombe began returning punts, and finished the season with 156 yards rushing and 171 yards receiving. His 20.3 yards per punt return led the team. The next year, he won the starting quarterback position over freshman Eric Crouch. Injuries to both players kept Husker fans guessing who would be behind center each week.

Newcombe impressed during the Husker season opener, rushing for two touchdowns and throwing for one. He suffered a torn PCL during that game and missed the following two. He then led Nebraska to a blowout victory over No. 9-ranked Washington, but later sat out four games to rest his knee.

Which brings us to last season. Among a frenzy of speculation, Newcombe edged Eric Crouch for the starting quarterback spot, only to find himself pushed early by his Husker teammate. After two games, Newcombe switched back to wingback, a move he suggested to the Husker coaching staff. "The first and only reason was for the team," he said.

Newcombe scored seven times last season - three rushing, three receiving and one on a punt return. He had 72 touches last season.

Newcombe still is a playmaker - only he's lining up from a different location on the field. He knows he can make a difference. "Give me the ball and let's see what happens." How many times per game, Newcombe said, is better left to the coaches.

So after three seasons of flirting with being the Husker man in the middle, Newcombe is firmly entrenched at wingback. This summer is his time to prepare.

Most coaches, Newcombe said, want receivers to catch 300 passes per day. Newcome said he expects to go beyond expectations. "300 plus."

As for his quarterback days, Newcombe, said, they are in his past - even though Crouch spent the spring nursing an injured shoulder; his backup Jammal Lord didn't make it through spring practice after suffering a knee injury.

Newcombe said he hopes both are at full strength this fall. "I'm trying to leave that (having to return to quarterback) out, but every once in a while someone brings it up."

After all, he's a wingback - plain and simple, free and clear. ✦ *NSA*

HUSKERS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	SAN JOSE STATE (DNP)
09.09	at Notre Dame (DNP)
09.23	IOWA (W 42-7)
09.30	**MISSOURI (W 40-10)**
10.07	**at Iowa State (W 49-14)**
10.14	**at Texas Tech (DNP)**
10.21	**Baylor (DNP)**
10.28	**at Oklahoma (DNP)**
11.04	**KANSAS (W 24-17)**
11.11	**at Kansas State (W 41-15)**
11.24	**COLORADO (W 33-30)**

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Big XII Preview

SOUTH 6

BAYLOR

Fuller welcomes challenges at BU

BY PAUL CLARK

If Baylor is going to show marked signs of improvement on offense this season, Andra Fuller will be the man in the middle of it.

Fuller played in all 11 games for the Bears during a painful 1999 season, starting in 10 of them. It was not a physically painful season, mind you, but painful in every other way as Baylor struggled to a 1-10 record in its first season under Head Coach Kevin Steele.

The former Nebraska assistant claims to have seen progress during the '99 campaign and expects to hang a higher number in the win column this fall.

On the season, Fuller grabbed 26 passes for 308 yards and an average of 28 yards a game. He caught at least one pass in nine games and was tied for the team lead with two touchdown receptions.

He either led or tied the receiving corps in catches the first six games and returned punts for an average of almost nine yards per pop.

The junior flanker from Aldine, Texas, knows he will be a key contributor for Steele this season.

Andra Fuller, FL, Baylor

"I am looking forward to the challenge of being a big-play guy for Baylor," Fuller said. "I know Coach Steele wants to run the football more this season and control the ball and I am cool with that.

"I hope we do run the ball more and run it better. But you have the throw the ball every game so I just have to ready when they call my number and make the plays."

The most difficult moment in a season full of them was Baylor's last-second loss to UNLV. In that game, the Bears had victory in hand with the ball inside the Rebel ten-yard-line as the clock ticked down. Rather than take a knee to seal the win, Steele tried to score.

UNLV scooped up a fumble and went the other way for a stunning touchdown. The loss tarnished Baylor's entire season and Steele has refused to distance himself from the ill-advised call, saying it serves as a great reminder to him.

Fuller knows the Bears have to win close games, not give them away, to show marked progress this fall.

"That was definitely a tough way to lose a ball game but Coach knew what he wanted to do there and it just didn't work out," said Fuller. "We expect to be in a few more close games this year than last year and we have to learn to win those.

"It's the close ones that really separate teams that are bunched up in the middle of the conference so if we can win some, we'll do alright in the Big 12 this year."

Cautious optimism from one of Baylor's team leaders as the Bears enter year two of Steele's rebuilding project with another rugged conference schedule lying in wait. Fuller said he and his teammates would have it no other way.

"We all came here because we wanted to play Big 12 football," he said. "There are probably easier conferences in the country where Baylor could move up in the standings faster than in the Big 12.

"But Coach Steele is going to get us there, it is just a matter of time. Baylor competes pretty well in some other sports, like baseball you know, so we can do it in football, too. Just watch us...just watch Baylor. We're going to be there before you know it." ✦ *NSA*

BEARS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
08.31	at North Texas (W 23-10)
09.16	MINNESOTA (DNP)
09.23	SOUTH FLORIDA (DNP)
09.30	**IOWA STATE (DNP)**
10.07	**at Texas Tech (L 7-35)**
10.14	**TEXAS A&M (L 13-45)**
10.21	**at Nebraska (DNP)**
10.28	**at Texas (L 0-62)**
11.04	**OKLAHOMA (L 10-41)**
11.11	**MISSOURI (DNP)**
11.18	**at Oklahoma State (L 14-34)**

TEXAS TECH

Healthy Williams key for Tech

BY CHAD CONINE

Could this have started out any worse? This is the question Ricky Williams, while sitting on the sideline with a bag of ice strapped to his sprained left knee, asked himself as he stared blankly into the stands at Sun Devil Stadium.

Meanwhile, on the field, Arizona State rolled over Texas Tech 31-13 in the Red Raiders' season opener.

An intense summer of workouts with a personal trainer, which helped Williams put on 20 pounds of muscle for his junior season, along with Heisman Trophy and All-American aspirations evaporated in the desert.

It got worse.

Williams quickly began preparing to make a comeback. Three weeks after the Arizona State game, the Tech tailback worked out with the team as it readied for Texas A&M. It was his first full practice since the injury and it didn't go well. In a non-contact drill, Williams' knee gave way.

Not only was his season over, Williams now faced reconstructive surgery and 9-12 months of rehabilitation before he would play football again.

Ricky Williams, RB, Texas Tech

So he spent the rest of the fall limping to the training room early in the morning for treatment. He dealt with the fact that, though the '99 season was a loss, it must have happened for a reason and he looked toward his senior campaign.

Williams turned down a medical redshirt that would have given him an extra year of elibility, choosing instead to go out with the same class that came with him to Texas Tech.

By the spring, the rehab had progressed far enough for Williams to run through non-contact drills as he and his offensive teammates learned new Red Raider Head Coach Mike Leech's play book.

If all goes well, Williams will spend this fall erasing the disappointment of last season.

The long months of rehab haven't clouded Williams' vision of what can be accomplished in the coming season. He knows that in Leech's pass-happy offense he's not going to get the volume of carries it would take to equal Byron Hanspard's 2,000-yard season of 1996 or perhaps even his own 1,582 yard effort of two years ago.

But Williams' personal goal isn't any less spectacular. He said he wants to gain 1,000 yards rushing and receiving.

"I knew the offense was going to be different," Williams said. "I figured in Coach Leech's style it would be great to gain 1,000 receiving yards so that's the goal I set for myself."

Williams will also see changes in the huddle this season. He watched last year as freshman Shaud Williams enjoyed some shining moments at the tailback position. The spring football red-black game offered Tech fans few clues as to how the two backs will coexist in one- or no-back offensive sets as Ricky Williams sat out and Shaud Williams carried only three times for 24 yards.

Actually, in Leech's scheme, the two running backs will play different positions. Ricky Williams will be the featured running back, while Shaud Williams will line up as a slot back.

"The system balances things out," Ricky Williams said. "Both Shaud and I will be able to get out in the routes and we will be able to give defenses a lot of different things to think about."

✦ *NSA*

RAIDERS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	UTAH STATE (DNP)
09.09	NORTH TEXAS (L 14-21)
09.16	LA-LAFAYETTE (W 38-17)
09.30	**at Texas A&M (W 21-19)**
10.07	**BAYLOR (W 35-7)**
10.14	**NEBRASKA (DNP)**
10.21	**at Kansas State (DNP)**
10.28	**at Kansas (DNP)**
11.04	**TEXAS (L 7-58)**
11.11	**OKLAHOMA STATE (L 21-41)**
11.18	**at Oklahoma (W 38-28)**

Big XII Preview SOUTH 4

OKLA STATE

Lindsay wants to go out a winner

BY ROGER MOORE, STILLWATER NEWSPRESS

During the summer of 1997, Oklahoma State football fans knew little about Tony Lindsay.

All they knew was that Bob Simmons was about to enter his third year as head coach and had produced a 3-8 rookie campaign followed by a 5-6 season. TonÈ Jones had been a three-year starter at quarterback and his position was up for grabs.

But by the time the final whistle blew in the 1997 Alamo Bowl, Oklahoma State fans knew exactly who their quarterback was going to be for the next three years.

When those same Cowboys, coming off back-to-back 5-6 seasons, open the 2000 season there will be no question as to who the starting quarterback will be - senior Tony Lindsay.

"It's a different feeling right now," said Lindsay. "There were a lot of unknowns when I first came to Oklahoma State. I wanted to play and I felt like I had a good shot to be the starter. We had a great season and everything went well for me.

"This year, going in I know what needs to be done and I know it is my job to lose."

Tony Lindsay, QB, Okla State

Lindsay's rookie season earned him the Big 12's Freshman of the Year award. The 6'2", 200-pounder was in the mold of many new college quarterbacks who mixed athletic running ability with a solid passing game.

He passed for 1,172 yards with nine touchdowns and also ran for 564 with nine more scores in leading OSU to its first winning season since 1988.

"That is what we want to get back to, is winning and going to a bowl game," said Lindsay, who was Colorado's top recruit back in 1995 with over 2,300 yards passing and 26 touchdowns.

"The last two years have been difficult for me and the team. We had high expectations going in but couldn't get over the hump. We've lost a lot of close games and I haven't played up to my ability. "Last year was very tough with the injury and everything."

As a sophomore, Lindsay rushed for 592 yards and 10 touchdowns and added another 1,442 yards threw the air as the Cowboys went 5-6, losing by just seven to Nebraska at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, and by a combined 10 points to Texas and Texas Tech in last-second losses on the road.

As a junior in the first game of the season, something that no college athlete wants happened - a knee injury. Five weeks later, Lindsay was back in a part-time role but never regained the form of his first two years in orange and black.

"1999 would have been tough on any athlete," said Lindsay's coach Bob Simmons. "Any time you go down early and then try and come back in midseason, it isn't easy. We expect him to be ready to go when this season starts."

And if the Cowboys expect to get back on the plus-side of the .500 mark after losing 29 seniors from last year's squad, they know Lindsay will be at the forefront of an offense that averaged just 311 yards a game in 1999.

In the six games he played last season, Lindsay rushed for just 58 yards and threw 10 interceptions while completing 61-of-116 for 767 yards.

"I have to play better if we are going to have a better offense," Lindsay admitted. "We never got into any kind of a rhythm when we had the football. Our defense played about as good as it could in most of the games, but our offense didn't do its job."

For OSU, prospects for success in 2000 rest on the shoulders, and right knee, of Tony Lindsay. ✦ NSA

COWBOYS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.09	at Tulsa (W 46-9)
09.16	SOUTHWEST TEXAS (DNP)
09.23	SO MISSISSIPPI (DNP)
09.30	**at Texas (L 21-34)**
10.07	**at Missouri (DNP)**
10.14	**IOWA STATE (DNP)**
10.28	**at Colorado (DNP)**
11.04	**TEXAS A&M (L 3-21)**
11.11	**at Texas Tech (W 41-21)**
11.18	**BAYLOR (W 34-14)**
11.25	**OKLAHOMA (L 7-44)**

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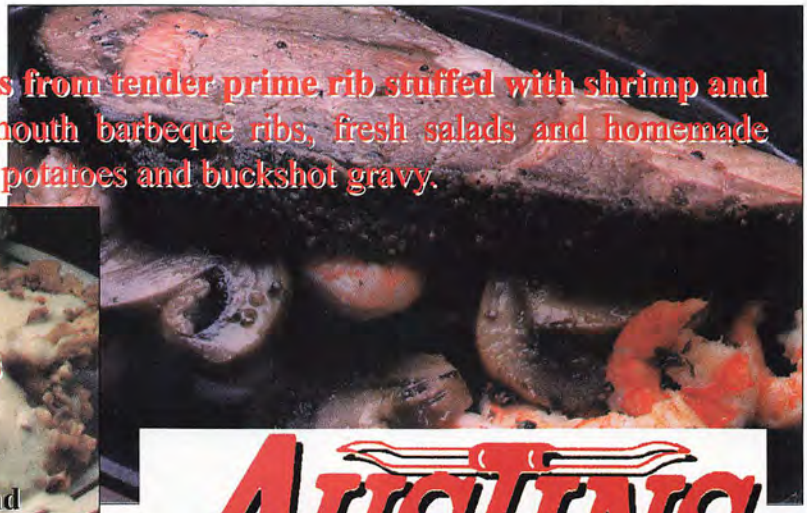

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Big XII Preview SOUTH 3

TEXAS A&M

Glenn backs up talk for Aggies

BY TIM SCHNETTLER, BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION EAGLE

Anyone who has been within earshot of a Texas A&M football practice or game has heard linebacker Jason Glenn.

It is impossible not to, because when he is on the football field it is a rare moment when he is quiet. Some form of chatter is always flowing from his lips and it does so effortlessly.

"I love to talk trash," Glenn said. "I do it to get everybody pumped up and ready to play."

Rare also is the occasion when Glenn isn't able to back up those words. One such moment occurred during the Aggies' spring drills earlier this year. With the defensive unit dominating its offensive counterparts during a scrimmage, Glenn's taunts and jeers were reaching a new level.

Glenn went so far as to ask the crowd gathered around the practice field if any of them wanted to try their hand at moving the ball on the defense. That's when he had to swallow a helping of his own words.

With a bit of trickery the Aggie offense had the defense going one way, while tailback Maurice Harris and the ball went the other, leaving the defense stunned.

Jason Glenn, LB, Texas A&M

"They did get us," Glenn said. "But we took pride in that because they had to use some kind of trick play to move the ball."

Since Glenn's coming out party in the 1997 Big 12 Championship game against the Nebraska Cornhuskers — where he returned a fumble 35 yards for a touchdown — Glenn's stock has continued to rise.

Now, as he enters his final season as an Aggie, Jason, whose older brother Aaron was an All-American at cornerback for the Aggies, looks to be the Aggies' best shot for postseason honors in 2000.

"It is an honor to be pointed out as one of the guys on defense who is seen as a marquee guy," Glenn said.

There is good reason for that distinction. From his outside linebacker position, the 6-foot 1-inch, 235-pound Glenn is quick enough to rein in a running back, and strong enough to break through the offensive line to haul down the quarterback.

"He adds a lot to our team," Coach R.C. Slocum said. "Not only in his performance, but just his attitude on the field."

In 10 games last season — he missed two with an ankle injury - Glenn recorded 58 tackles, including five sacks and 11 tackles for losses.

But personal numbers aren't the ones Glenn is concerned about. He is more interested in the team and the numbers it posts — especially in the win column.

Last season, the Aggies went 8-4 in a season that was full of ups and downs. The lowest point, at least in Glenn's mind, came in the seventh game of the season.

The Aggies traveled to Norman, Okla., for a date with the Oklahoma Sooners and their high-flying offense. A&M's defense never found its footing, and the Sooners handed the Aggies a 51-6 loss.

"Never in my life have I seen the score that high on the A&M defense," Glenn said.

And he says he doesn't want to see numbers like that again as long as he is on the field. Big words, but it is a pretty safe bet that Glenn will do all he can to back up those words. ✦ *NSA*

AGGIES 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	at Notre Dame (DNP)
09.09	WYOMING (DNP)
09.16	TEXAS-EL PASO (DNP)
09.30	**TEXAS TECH (L 19-21)**
10.07	**COLORADO (DNP)**
10.14	**at Baylor (W 45-13)**
10.21	**at Iowa State (DNP)**
10.28	**KANSAS STATE (DNP)**
11.04	**at Oklahoma State (W 21-3)**
11.11	**OKLAHOMA (L 6-51)**
11.24	**at Texas (W 20-16)**

TEXAS

Inspired Rogers leads UT defense

BY TERRY L. HENION

On the football field, Shaun Rogers wears his emotions on his sleeve and the initials of his late grandmother on his ankle.

Rogers, the massive all-conference defensive tackle for Texas, said the ritual of inscribing his grandmother's initials on the tape over his socks provides a constant reminder of the influence she had on his life.

"She passed away right before the playoffs during my senior year in high school," said Rogers, a 21-year-old senior for the Longhorns. "I was devastated at the time. We had always been so close.

"My grandmother taught me so many life lessons: how the Lord works in our lives if we let him, how to be a moral man, how to be a good person. So when I write her initials on that tape before every game, I am honoring her memory and saying thanks to her for helping me get where I am today."

And where exactly IS Shaun Rogers today? Well, he is at the pinnacle of the collegiate game. Rogers and Longhorn all-America defensive tackle Casey Hampton provide Texas with the best inside duo in college football. Both are expected to earn numerous post-season honors this year and both are figured to go high in the pro draft.

Shaun Rogers, DE, Texas

Rogers, a native of LaPorte, Texas, said his relationship with Hampton on the field and off provides constant motivation. Hampton, from Galveston, was considered a blue-chip prospect in high school. Rogers, while a solid talent, was considered to be a "project."

The two played against each other in high school, and Hampton's team handily won every game, something that Rogers has to hear about more than he likes.

"We compete in everything we do," Rogers said. "He pushes me, I push him. During a game sometimes, I see Casey make a play and it just makes me play harder. I want to make a better play than he just did. We are pretty tight, and I think that makes it even more competitive. So while we are trying to outdo each other, it's the guys on the other team who pay the price."

Indeed. In 1999, the duo of Hampton and Rogers were totally for a dominating. They anchored a defense that ranked sixth nationally, allowing just 286 yards per game. Rogers posted the second-best tackle for loss total (27) in school history and ranks 10th in that category career with 36.

"Casey and Shaun are so good that other teams must double-team both of them most of the time," Texas Head Coach Mack Brown said. "And when that happens, it frees up other guys to make plays. There are games when the statistics don't really reveal how dominating Shaun and Casey are.

"They might not be making many tackles, but they are typing up four and five guys along the line of scrimmage," said Brown.

Rogers said he plans to dedicate every minute of his senior season to the memory of his grandmother.

"She called me Chris (his middle name) and I called her Granny," Rogers said. "There are times when I can literally hear her voice, I think. My grandmother is my personal angel. I can feel her there all the time and I draw my strength from her.

"When I was young, she took me in tow and showed me right from wrong, showed me that the simple things in life are what matter. I try to to things the right way and remember what she taught me."

And so as he heads into his final season at Texas, with a pro career ahead of him, Rogers has every reason to look ahead. Funny thing is, he spends almost as much time looking back.

"I miss Granny," he said. "I hope she is proud of me. I think she probably is." ✦ *NSA*

LONGHORNS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.09	LA-LAFAYETTE (DNP)
09.16	at Stanford (W 69-17)
09.23	HOUSTON (DNP)
09.30	**OKLA STATE (W 34-21)**
10.07	**Oklahoma @Dallas (W 38-28)**
10.14	**at Colorado (DNP)**
10.21	**MISSOURI (DNP)**
10.28	**BAYLOR (W 62-0)**
11.04	**at Texas Tech (W 58-7)**
11.11	**at Kansas (DNP)**
11.24	**TEXAS A&M (L 16-20)**

Big XII Preview SOUTH

OKLAHOMA

Expectations drive OU's Heupel

BY GEORGE SCHROEDER

Josh Heupel burst upon the Big 12 scene in a big way in 1999. An unknown from Snow Junior College — and before that, from Aberdeen, South Dakota — Heupel quickly made a name for himself.

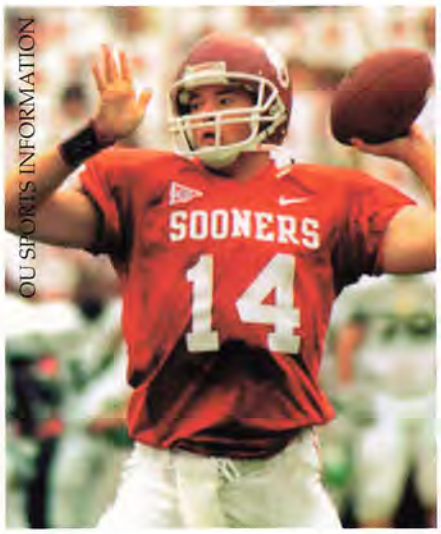
He broke nine school records, six conference records, and helped OU to its first winning season since 1993 and its first bowl game since 1994. For all that, Heupel was named the Big 12's offensive newcomer of the year.

By most accounts, it was a pretty nice season. But Heupel's accounting method is different than most. Forget the touchdown passes, the broken records, the bowl game. He has. Here's what Heupel has retained from last year.

"The bad things," he said.

Heupel, a 6-2, 214-pound senior, said he savored OU's achievements for "about a week" after the 1999 season. When he returned to school after OU's loss to Ole Miss in the Independence Bowl, he went right to the videotapes. And it wasn't to relive the touchdown passes, those wonderful scrambles away from danger or other moments Sooner fans remember.

Instead, Heupel dissected his performances. He watched for tiny imperfections — and found plenty. And then he addressed the deficits, spending hours in the film room and many more in the weight room and on the field.



OU SPORTS INFORMATION

Josh Heupel, QB, Oklahoma

Heupel worked to better understand the Sooners' fast-break offense. He improved his footwork and fundamentals, converted some fat to muscle. He gained strength, flexibility and quickness in hopes of remaining fresh all season.

"He's gotten really quicker and his velocity has improved," said OU quarterbacks coach/passing game coordinator Chuck Long. ""He's much stronger. That's one thing that stands out.' Long, the former NFL quarterback who joined the staff last December, said Heupel, who completed 62 percent (310 of 500) of his passes last season, could improve his accuracy by 10 points. "He can be as good as anybody in the country," Long said. "He can be the best in the country if he wants to be."

That's a good thing, because expectations of Heupel and the Sooners have grown tremendously. A year ago, Heupel was an unknown commodity, a junior-college transfer who had been installed as the No. 1 quarterback. This spring, Heupel is the Sooners' undisputed star. OU officials are preparing a campaign designed to make Heupel a legitimate candidate for the Heisman Trophy.

Heupel recognizes what he — and the Sooners — accomplished last season. He understands his role, even if he doesn't like to highlight it. But he also understands what that portends for 2000.

"There's been a big change in people's attitudes and expectations," Heupel said. "What they expect of you, what they expect of the team. All those things have changed. But that doesn't make things easier. That makes things a lot harder."

Heupel said he's not concerned about the Heisman or any other awards that might fall his way.

"When I'm done playing college football, I'll be able to look back on it and enjoy," Heupel said. "Right now, it's not even something I think about. The only thing I can control is getting myself as prepared as I can for the season and getting myself in the best position to help this football team win.

"Hopefully, I'm a better quarterback. I need to be better for us to win more football games." ✦ *NSA*

SOONERS 2000

Date	Opponent (In '99)
09.02	UTEP (DNP)
09.09	ARKANSAS STATE (DNP)
09.23	RICE (DNP)
09.30	**KANSAS (DNP)**
10.07	**Texas @ Dallas (L 28-38)**
10.14	**at Kansas State (DNP)**
10.28	**NEBRASKA (DNP)**
11.04	**at Baylor (W 41-10)**
11.11	**at Texas A&M (W 51-6)**
11.18	**TEXAS TECH (L 28-38)**
11.25	**at Oklahoma State (W 44-7)**

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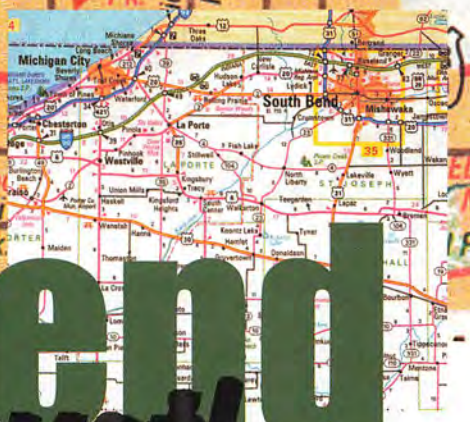

Non-conference football games for Nebraska in recent years have carried with them all of the electricity of an Amish homestead. That is to say, not much.

Oh sure, Husker fans have done a nice job of whipping themselves into a frenzy for a big game at Washington and a jaunt to eastern Iowa to pound on the Hawkeyes. Nebraska's non-conference schedule is systematically designed to produce three wins, one of which actually involves sweat. It's a tried-and-true system that is often criticized and more often duplicated.

Kansas State has trumped NU by taking it one step further and eliminated the "sweat" game altogether.

Non-conference football for Nebraska is like vanilla ice cream. It tastes good, but you're not wanting more when it is gone.

Ready for some double-almond mocha fudge? In a waffle cone?

Ed Waller of Omaha is more than ready for two scoops of the biggest non-conference football game to land on a Nebraska schedule in decades. It is the Huskers versus Notre Dame, September 9, 2000, South Bend, Indiana.

Ed knows the road to South Bend very well, having driven I-80 through Iowa, Illinois and part of Indiana during his undergraduate days at Notre Dame. As a native Nebraskan going to college in the shadow of "Touchdown Jesus," Waller said their was plenty of pressure to convert from a Husker fan to an Irish fan.

"The only thing that saved me was I was there during the Gerry Faust years," Waller joked in reference to one of Notre Dame's less-than-stellar eras of football success. "But even then there was this disbelief among people I hung out with that I could continue to cheer for Nebraska. I suppose had it been a few years later when Lou Holtz was there, I might have caved."

Waller was just a kid the last time Nebraska and Notre Dame played and he says he remembers that game. His claim, though, is tinged with the doubt that comes when you have heard so much about a game in the years since that you THINK you remember it.

"We were at my uncle's house, I think..." is his most solid nugget of evidence that he indeed watched the game on television and remembers it. "Well, I know my dad and my uncle would not have missed that game and I know I would have been right there with them..."

Husker fans know that Johnny Rodgers shredded the Irish that night in every way Coach Bob Devaney could draw on a chalkboard (see sidebar story). It was the last chapter in a story of great football match-ups between 1915 and the first day of 1973. Between 1915 and 1925, it was a rivalry as the teams met every year and staged some of the classic football affairs of the early century.

The first six games and 10 of the 14 all-time clashes between Nebraska and Notre Dame were played in Lincoln. Only three times did Nebraska teams venture east to South Bend and, if the Huskers prevail this fall, it will be the first time NU has ever won at Notre Dame. The Irish whipped Nebraska 31-0 the last time they played at Notre Dame Stadium. Of course, that was 53 years ago. With losses of 7-

0 and 34-6 in previous trips to South Bend, Nebraska has been outscored a whopping 72-6 with Touchdown Jesus looking on.

But the Cornhuskers of yesteryear had their moments in a series that Notre Dame leads, 7-6-1. Nebraska won the first-ever meeting 20-19 and later won games in 1977, 1922, 1923 and 1925. Ed Weir, Nebraska's gritty All-American tackle, beat Notre Dame in two of his three encounters with the Irish and legendary coach Knute Rockne.

The relatively ancient history of Nebraska vs. Notre Dame is not lost on Waller, who said he has read accounts of every game between the schools many times over.

"I guess I just have a unique perspective on the whole Nebraska-Notre Dame thing," he explained. "I certainly don't dislike Notre Dame football. I have cheered for them every week since I went to school there...because they have never played Nebraska. You could say they are my two favorite teams, but Nebraska is so far and away #1 in my heart that there is no question who I will be rooting for when they play."

Waller and wife Patricia will drive to South Bend, probably leaving on the Wednesday prior to the game. He'll look up some old college buddies while in town and show Patricia some more of his favorite old haunts- they've only been to South Bend once since getting married in 1992. They will probably be on campus Friday night to soak up the pageantry of a Notre Dame pep rally, dressed in attire that does not give away their Nebraska allegiance.

"We're not going to have on our red Nebraska sweatshirts or anything," Waller laughed. "I'm not going down there looking for trouble. Notre Dame has one of the great game day atmospheres in all of sports and it really starts the night before.

"I guess I would really encourage Nebraska fans to show the school and the program and the people of Notre Dame a lot of respect." ✦ *NSA*

"Johnny the Jet" tore 'em up in '73

BY MARK FRICKE, HUSKER PRESSBOX

To the casual observer, the drama had already been lost in the 1973 Orange Bowl.

After two years as National Champion the Nebraska Cornhuskers entered the New Years Day contest ranked ninth in the AP poll with no shot at a three-peat. Dazzling Husker wingback Johnny Rodgers had already displayed enough talent in the regular season to be named the Heisman Trophy winner prior to the game. But even without the impressive hardware still on the line, the Cornhusker players had something big to accomplish. Beloved head coach Bob Devaney had announced his retirement and the Huskers wanted to make sure they sent their coach off with an impressive victory.

Notre Dame entered the game with an 8-2 record including a loss to number one USC in the season finale. Head Coach Ara Parseghian brought a talented group of Irish athletes, including quarterback Tom Clements. Oddly enough, despite their long history, the 1973 was only the fourth bowl game Notre Dame had played in. With the exception of the 1925 Rose Bowl school officials prohibited the team from playing in any post-season matchups until 1969.

Nebraska's primary offensive weapon was a stellar passing game, leading the Big 8 in passing yardage with 219.2 yards per game. Notre Dame focused their pre-game preparations on trying to stop Johnny Rodgers and slowing down the Husker aerial attack. But Devaney has a trick up his sleeve. When the Huskers lined up for their opening drive, Rodgers wasn't playing wingback. Devaney had positioned the senior at I-Back, completely changing the Husker attack. Rodgers would now do his damage on the ground.

Nebraska's offense took little time to get into gear. On their opening possession of the game the Huskers easily marched over the 76 yards needed for the first score. Runs by Rodgers of 13 and 10 yards as well as runs of 6 and twelve yards by Dave Goeller showed the Irish that the Huskers were pulling out all stops. Even if it meant using an unfamiliar ground attack to do the job. Rodgers finally drew first blood with an 8-yard touchdown run. Rich Sanger's kick gave the Huskers a 7-0 first quarter lead.

The Irish had their chances to score early in the game. Early in the first, a Notre Dame drive moved quickly down to the Nebraska 29 yard line but the Husker defense pushed the Irish back from there. A 52 yard field goal attempt was no good and the Irish frustration began. In the first quarter alone Notre Dame enjoyed first downs at the Nebraska 30, 29 and 25-yard lines. However they were unable to score on any of the opportunities. Cornerback Joe Blahak intercepted one pass to kill an Irish drive.

In the second period the Huskers used the ground attack once again to catch the Irish flat-footed. Gary Dixon broke free on a run of 36 yards covered nearly half of the scoring drive yardage. Humm followed that with a 19 yard toss to Bob Revelle to set up the Huskers' next score. Dixon pounded in from one yard out for the TD with 14:21 left in the period.

Nebraska wasn't ready to stop there, however. On their next possession the Husker once again used the threat of their ground game to fool the Irish defense, but it was the pass that did the scoring. With the ball on the Husker 48 yard line Humm tossed a lateral to Rodgers who grabbed the toss and appeared ready to head up field. Irish defenders converged on the star, only to watch helplessly as Rodgers pulled up and tossed a deep pass to a streaking Frosty Anderson for the team's third touchdown.

Read more about Nebraska's 1973 rout of Notre Dame at www.huskernews.com

Huddle Up, Huskers.

Reservations for 2000 Husker Huddles are currently being accepted for Alumni Association members ONLY. You will receive a confirmation card prior to each away game Husker Huddle for which you register. Event tickets will be held for you at the door. For more information, contact the Nebraska Alumni Association at (402) 472-8911.
Please note, game tickets are not sold as part of the Husker Huddle package.

Special priority reservation status will be given to Association members until Friday, Aug. 4.

Notre Dame — Sept. 9, 2000

College Football Hall of Fame, 111 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend, Ind., 3 hours prior to kickoff
$30/members and their guests; $35 nonmembers
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Final reservation deadline is Sept. 1, 2000

Iowa State — Oct. 7, 2000

Iowa State Center, Scheman Building Courtyard, Ames, Iowa, 3 hours prior to kickoff
$15/members and their guests; $20 nonmembers
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Final reservation deadline is Sept. 29, 2000

Texas Tech — Oct. 14, 2000

Ranching Heritage Center, Burns Pavilion, 3121 Fourth St., Lubbock, Texas, 3 hours prior to kickoff
$20/members and their guests; $25 nonmembers
Includes: Heritage Center tour, chuckwagon barbecue, cash bar, pep band, Husker Spirit Squad, door prizes.
Final reservation deadline is Oct. 6, 2000

Oklahoma — Oct. 28, 2000

Commons Restaurant, 4th and Maple Streets, Norman, Okla., 3 hours prior to kickoff
$20/members and their guests; $25 nonmembers
Includes: Full breakfast buffet, cash bar, Scarlet and Cream Singers, Husker Spirit Squad, door prizes.
Final reservation deadline is Oct. 20, 2000

Kansas State — Nov. 11, 2000

Ramada Hotel, 17th and Anderson Streets, Manhattan, Kan., 3 hours prior to kickoff
$15/members and their guests; $20 nonmembers
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Final reservation deadline is Nov. 3, 2000

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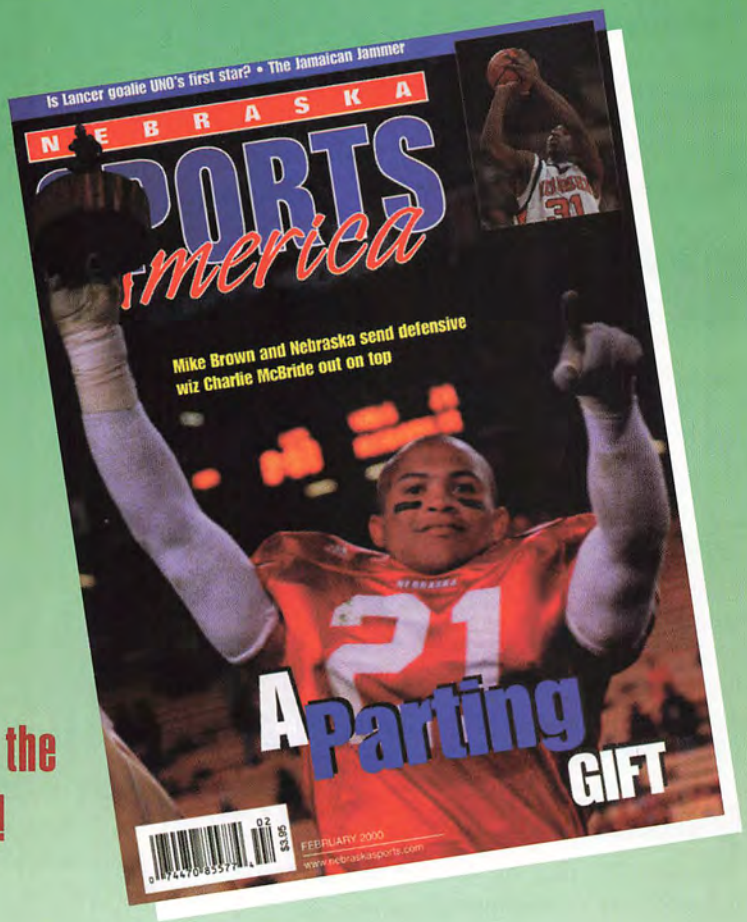
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The Cover Story

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Just like the Good 'Ol Days

By Terry L. Henion

You remember Oklahoma vs. Nebraska don't you? College football's version of the "Hatfields & McCoys" may be back

Okay, let's get the semantics straight to start. The Oklahoma-Nebraska game, for nearly three decades the BIG GAME of the year, was never a rivalry.

A heated series, yes. An important game every year, certainly. But a rivalry? No.

Now, after a two-year break from playing each other, the Sooners and the Huskers will tee it up again in 2000, this edition set for October 28 in Norman, Oklahoma. And while the teams reside in opposite divisions of the Big XII Conference, the renewal of the storied series will revive fans' memories of past games.

But remember, it is NOT a rivalry.

For the record, the teams have played 78 games in their history, with the Sooners holding a tenuous 39-36-3 edge.

Even a grainy black-and-white photo that makes it seem longer than 29 years ago can't take away the magic as Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers outruns OU All-American Jack Mildren in 1971.

Jeff Kinney went up and over for the game-winning touchdown in 1971's "Game of the Century."

The Huskers, though, have dominated the last decade or so, winning seven straight against Oklahoma.

And with Nebraska picked by some to be a main challenger for the national title in 2000, Husker fans are looking forward to narrowing the margin in the rivalry. Ooops, sorry. No rivalry. Make that "series."

Dodge Different.

Barry Switzer, the former Sooner coach whose rambling, gambling wishbone offenses produced countless migraines to Husker fans, said the series is one of "respect."

"It can't be a true rivalry because Nebraska and Oklahoma aren't border states," Switzer said. "For example, our thing with Texas IS a rivalry. It is a rivalry not only on the field, but off the field as well. Sooner fans and Texas fans go at it hammer and tongs year around.

"But Nebraska was always the most important game of the year in terms of how your season and conference and national hopes would go. Oklahoma and Nebraska dominated the Big Eight for so long that we and everybody else knew going in each year that it was, in essence, a one-game season."

Nebraska won the very first game of the series in 1912 with a 13-9 victory over the Sooners, but after that, the teams played on mostly even terms for the next 30 years. But in 1943, with a 26-7 win over the Huskers in Lincoln, Oklahoma began a remarkable string of 16 straight wins over Nebraska.

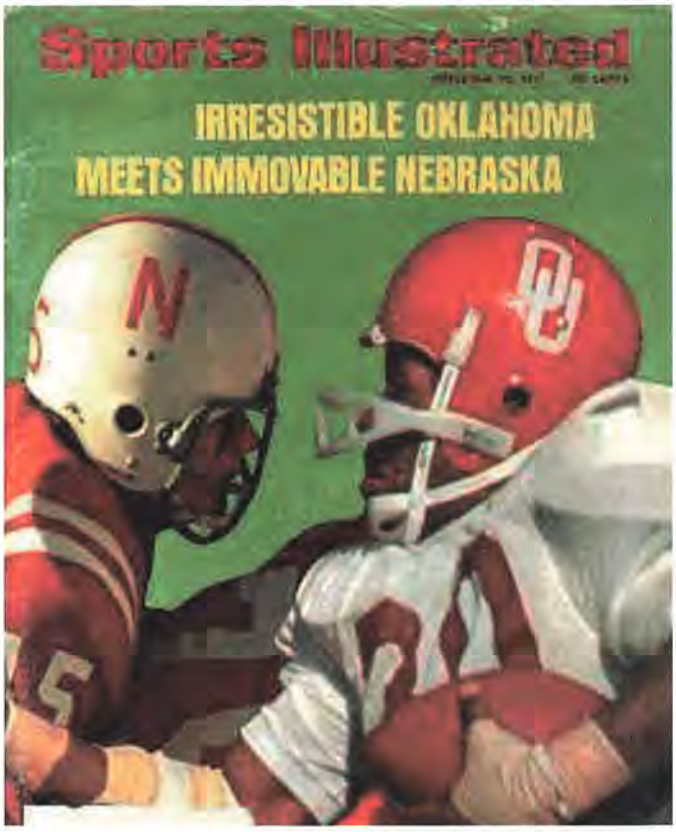
"Certainly, from a coach's point of view...the excitement built up for several weeks ahead of the game. And from what I observed, the fans here in Nebraska got a little worked up, too"
Tom Osborne on OU-NU

Legendary coach Bud Wilkinson was the architect of those powerhouse Oklahoma teams that ran roughshod over Nebraska and most everyone else. The Sooners reeled off 74 straight wins in Big Eight play, a remarkable display of football dominance.

And who finally managed to end the Oklahoma record-setting win streak? Nebraska, of course, with a shocking 25-21 upset in 1959. Since then, the teams have played 37 times, with the Sooners holding just a 19-18 edge.

"It seemed like every year the situation was pretty much the same," said Tom Osborne, Nebraska's storied coach who succeeded Devaney and who retired three years ago. "It always came down to us and Oklahoma at the end for the conference championship and in some cases the national championship on the line.

"Certainly, from a coach's point of view and for the players as well, I am sure, the excitement built up for several weeks ahead of the game. And from what I observed, the fans here in Nebraska got a little worked up, too."



SI predicted it right when the '71 Nebraska-Oklahoma game was on the cover the week before the big game.

That lump is Osborne's tongue planted firmly in his cheek. That's because during his first six years as the Husker head coach, the mighty Huskers managed to win not a single game against Oklahoma. Nada. Zilch.

"But we learned from that," Osborne said. "That wishbone taught us that we needed to recruit fast, athletic quarterbacks to run our option offense, too. So in a way, our later successes can be partially attributed to what we learned in losing to Oklahoma."

During his remarkable 26-year career as Nebraska's head coach, Osborne broke even with the Sooners, winning 13 and losing 13.

While the Nebraska football machine dominated the college football landscape during the 1990s under Osborne, the Sooners surprisingly fell upon hard times. After Switzer was ousted as head coach in 1988, Oklahoma went through a succession of head coaches -- Gary Gibbs, Howard Schnellenberger, John Blake and now Bob Stoops.

A former Iowa defensive back and Steve Spurrier assistant at Florida, Stoops has turned around the sagging OU football fortunes with a high-powered passing attack and an

improving defense. Some observers think the Sooners can challenge fot the South Division title in the Big XII this year. Nebraska and Oklahoma playing each other in an important game again? Could be.

Nebraska Head Coach Frank Solich has competed against Oklahoma as a player, an assistant coach and now as the Husker leader. Solich said the "Oklahoma Week" always brought with it a sense of urgency and purpose.

"Everybody at both schools, I think, were always aware of what an important game it was," Solich said. "I have a bit of new perspective now as the head coach because EVERY game is a big one."

The Husker head man said that taking his powerful Huskers into Norman this fall, after two years with Oklahoma not on the Nebraska schedule, will be a formidable task.

"It is always a very tough place to play a football game, and Coach Stoops has turned things around there in a relatively short period of time," Solich said. "This year, Oklahoma will be another 'big' week for us."

While the likes of Solich and Stoops look forward to Oklahoma vs. Nebraska circa. 2000, guys like Osborne and Switzer can't help but look back. The 1978 game in Lincoln seems to stir the most memories for the legendary adversaries.

"Well, for one thing, it cost us the national championship that year," Switzer said. "Sims had made a great run and was just about down and the ball popped out. Hell, we would have scored on the next play and won the game. Of all the games we had against Nebraska when I was coaching, that's the one I remember most. We were the better team."

Switzer said the post-game handshake between he and Osborne never took place.

"I was maybe one foot away from Tom and both of us had our hands out," Switzer said. "And this tidal wave of Husker fans hit me, trying to get to Tom, and just carried me away. Heck, I ended up on the ground, getting stomped on. We never did get to shake hands."

Osborne, whose triumph in that game should have been a positive memory, instead still has sour thoughts about the aftermath. The Orange Bowl committee decided to stage a rematch between the Huskers and Sooners in the Orange Bowl, and this time Oklahoma prevailed 31-24.

"Here we beat the best team in the country head up and then we had to turn around and play them in the bowl game," Osborne said. "That just never seemed right to me."

This year, the first of a new millennium, will see the Huskers and Sooners square off again and maybe, just maybe, conference and national title hopes for one or both will be on the line again. It'll be "Boomer Sooner" vs. "Hail Varsity." Lil' Red versus the Sooner Schooner. The 'Skers and the 'Ners, in October, in Norman.

But remember now, it's not a rivalry, it's a "series."

Yeah, right. ✦ *NSA*

Remembering OU vs. NU

Nov. 25, 1971

There is no other place to start than with the 1971 shootout, Nebraska ranked #1, Oklahoma ranked #2. Most observers of college football label it the best game ever played. Chuck Fairbanks' Sooners (Switzer was an assistant coach then) had the country's best offense. Nebraska, under Devaney, was the country's best defensive team. And in what was labeled "The Game of the Century," Nebraska managed to pull out a thrilling 35-31 win en route to its second straight national title. The key play was Johnny Rodgers' swirling, twisting punt return for a touchdown, the game's first score.

Oct. 31, 1959

Oklahoma, under Wilkinson, rolled into Lincoln with a 74-game winning streak in Big Eight play. But Nebraska, under struggling Head Coach Bill Jennings, stung the mighty Sooners with a 25-21 win, with defensive back Ron Meade intercepting a last-ditch Sooner pass into the end zone.

Nov. 23, 1963

One day after President Kennedy is shot and killed in Dallas, Nebraska beat Oklahoma 29-20 for the Big Eight title. The Huskers dominated the game, and only two quick scores in the final two minutes by Oklahoma, made the game's final score close.

Nov. 11, 1978

Oklahoma came into Memorial Stadium as the country's top-ranked team and appeared ready to close out the game with a fourth-quarter touchdown. But star running back Billy Sims fumbled at the Husker three-yard line with 3:27 left and the Huskers knocked off Oklahoma, 17-14.

Nov. 21, 1987

As in 1971, the two teams came into the game ranked #1 and #2 in the country. Second-ranked Oklahoma's vaunted defense, led by All-America linebacker Brian Bosworth, shut down Nebraska, ranked number one in the country, and toppled the Huskers, 17-7.

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Going up A Wall

Rock climbing in Nebraska? Eastern Nebraska? Granted, the Omaha metro area is woefully short of genuine rocks, cliffs, mountains and otherwise scaleable objects, but there is a new "rock" in town that makes a mighty fine substitute for the adventurous city dweller with an urge to climb.

It's the Mount Boulder Climbing Wall and it is located in Millard at the new Boulder Creek Amusement Park. Sitting amidst enjoyable yet tame fare like miniature golf, batting cages and a video arcade, Mount Boulder is an attraction that taps into different adrenaline level altogether.

The "Mount" is actually a unique climbing apparatus that is unlike any other in the Omaha area. The wall itself is some 30 feet tall and is hydraulically lifted to its upright position. It is lowered, to a fully horizontal position, in the same way at night when the park closes to eliminate "unauthorized climbs" by those inclined to take a thirst for adventure too far.

If you have't been rock-climbing in Nebraska, it is because you have never looked in Millard. There you will Mount Boulder and its ultra-safe "auto-belay" system

Mount Boulder is also the safest way to experience rock climbing in the metro area. The wall utilizes new technology- known as an "auto-belay system"- to keep climbers safe when the inevitable "slip" occurs. An auto-belay system relies on hydraulics to activate the cable system that keeps a climber from falling when he or she slips.

"The wall utilizes new technology- known as an 'auto-belay' system- to keep climbers safe with the inevitable 'slip' occurs."

"This is the safest climbing system available because it eliminates the potential for human error," said park co-owner Dennis Schuett. "Most climbing walls rely on a person on the ground to man to man the traditional cable-harness system. This new technology completely eliminates the need for that person and makes for a much safer climbing experience for the person up on the wall."

Once rigged up to the auto-belay system, there is nothing between a climber and the top of the wall. Well, nothing but 30 feet of nubs, nooks, crannies and ledges to negotiate on a slow yet exciting ascent. And unlike traditional rock climbing, scaling Mount Boulder is a spectator sport, too. People enjoying other area of the park are inevitably drawn to the grassy expanse that surrounds the wall to watch climbers master Mount Boulder.

Yes, Colorado has better mountains than this. But, Nebraska has a better football team so you learn to live with tradeoffs in life. And there is no question that Mount Boulder is a much better facsimile of a real mountain than CU is of a real football team. Climbing Mount Boulder is truly the best way to experience rock climbing without journeying too far from home. ✦ *NSA*

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Arnold Palmer-designed course opens in Omaha

If the developers of The Players Club at Deer Creek have their way, their will be a new version of "Arnie's Army" growing in numbers this summer.

The legions they hope to see en mass are golfers at the Arnold Palmer-designed course in northwest Omaha. The Players Club at Deer Creek opened in June to limited play but the action has heated up right along with the heat wave that socked the area. And while the real Arnie's Army was a gallery of spectators that followed one of the game's great legends from hole-to-hole, tournament-after-tournament, this Nebraska-style corps will have clubs in hand.

From signature holes #6 and #18 to a third nine that is still on the drawing board, The Players Club at Deer Creek takes public golfing to outer space...literally. A satellite positioning system installed on every cart at the course tells players exactly where they are and how far from the pin their ball lies. Officially, the course is semi-private but club pro Chris "Jake" Jacobson stresses that this is a course for any discriminating golfer in town.

"We really consider ourselves a public course, but membership packages make us semi-private," Jacobsen said. "What we offer is the opportunity to play a public course and enjoy country club style service and attention. Our intention is to always be open to the public, but the window for public tee times will get smaller as membership grows."

Jacobson calls The Players Club layout "a tale of two courses." He said that the front nine and the back nine look, feel and play like entirely different layouts.

"The front nine features a lot of rolling terrain," he explained. "I kind of think of it as like playing a course down in the Ozarks, for anybody that has golfed down there. You go to the back nine and the course really flattens out. We have a lot of natural wetlands on the back nine that give it a very unique feel as well. Probably the one consistent feature is the amount of sand. People come in and that is what they say: 'Boy, there sure is a lot of sand out there.' There is more on the front but it definitely comes into play on about every hole."

ach nine features a hole that will become the defining- or signature-holes on the course. The sixth is a long par four that plays 484 yards from the back, or "Palmer," tees. It is 452 yards from the championship tees, 405 from the medalist tees and 325 from the forward tees. Number six rates as the toughest hole on the course.

Not far behind is a classic #18 to bring golfers back to the clubhouse. It's a par five monster that plays 564 yards from the Palmer tees down to 436 from the forward tees. It wraps up a par 71 course (35 on the front, 36 on the back) that measures just over 7,000 yards from the Palmer tees and just over 5,800 yards from the medalist tees where most guys will put it in play.

"With the exception of six, which is a great par four, people are going to remember the par fives and par threes on this course," predicted Jacobson. "There are three par fives out here, including numbers 9 and 18, which make them both great finishing holes. All of the par threes have a lot of hazards that come into play, both water and sand. People who like shooting at par threes will love them...they're challenging."

The Players Club at Deer Creek will expand to 27 holes by the year 2002 according to plans. ✦ NSA

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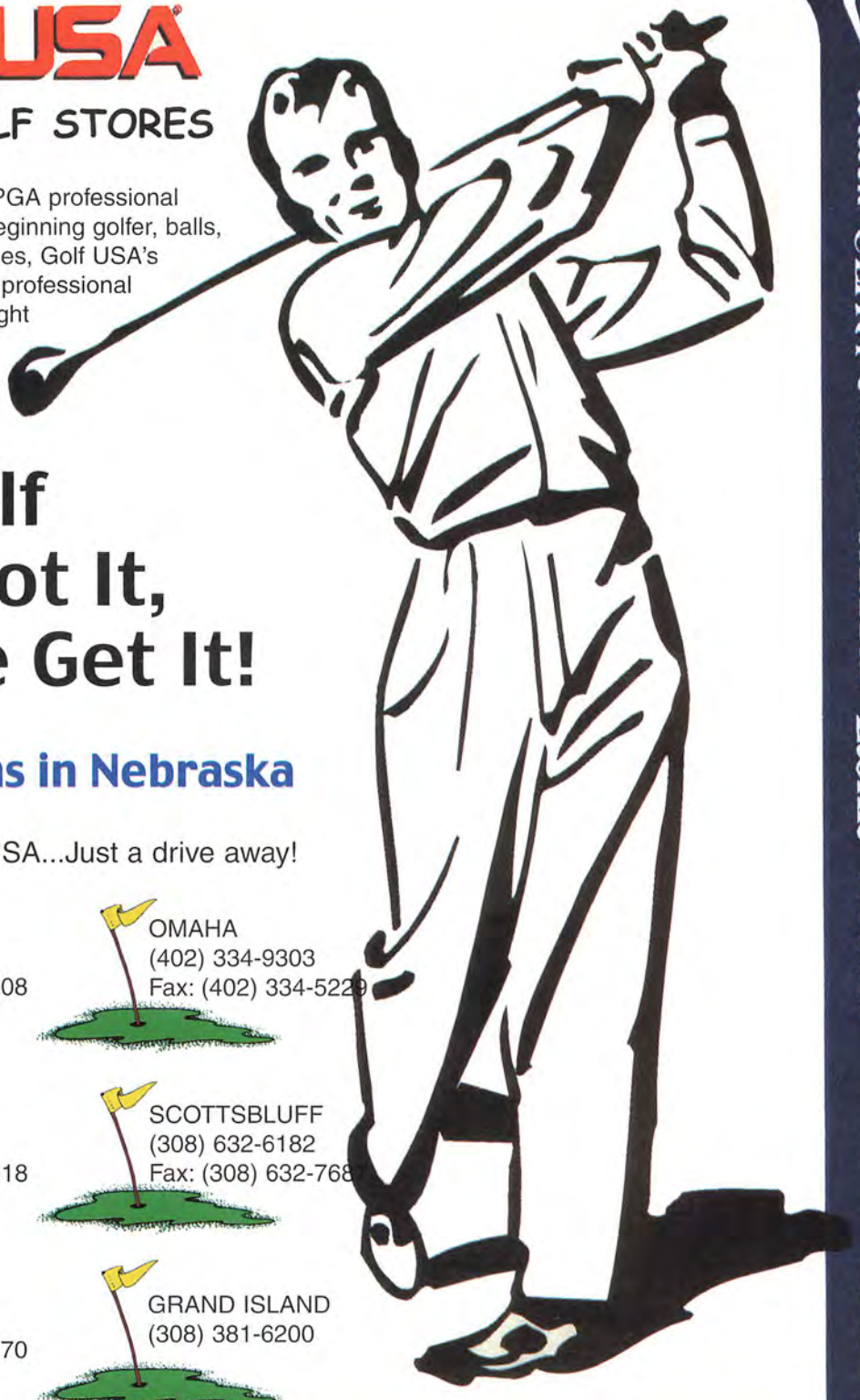

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We have a large selection of equipment for strength training as well as cardiovascular workouts. Depending upon the goals for your own personal fitness, your time constraints and the space you have for equipment, we can find exactly what is right for you.

But before you come in, we'd like to give you a head start with these helpful guidelines:

1. Get a physical exam before you start any exercise program. If you have been inactive for several years or are new to an exercise program, be sure to consult your family physician first. This is especially true if you are over age 35, have had health problems in the past or have a history of heart disease in your family.

2. Begin planning for your home fitness center before you buy any equipment. Set aside a portion of or an entire room in your house or apartment that is exclusively for fitness, and make sure that it is as comfortable as possible so you'll enjoy using it. If you like music or like to look outside while exercising, make sure these things are accessible. Do not force yourself to exercise in a part of the house that isn't comfortable as you will not be motivated to spend time there.

3. Decide if you need a companion to be successful. If you prefer to do things in life with someone as opposed to going it alone, find a friend to train with who lives nearby. Encouraging your spouse or children to exercise with you is an excellent way to stay healthy and promote family unity.

4. Make fitness a part of your daily schedule. However you keep track of your day, make sure to include exercise time as a specific item on your personal "to do" list. Schedule it like you would any other appointment and keep that appointment with your exercise like you would with a friend or business colleague.

5. Use affirmations to help you program your subconscious to accept new beliefs. They should be positive statements like, "I am living a healthier lifestyle by exercising several times a week at home." Repeat your affirmations several times per week.

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In The Stands

with TERRY L. HENION

Sitting out the great announcer debate

The temptation is too much. I have to give in. "The Great Announcer Controversy" has to be addressed.

It has been raging for several years, ever since the Pinnacle network took over the Nebraska football broadcasts and replaced long-time play-by-play man Kent Pavelka with newcomer Warren Swain. Legions of Husker fans write letters to the editor and jam sport call-in lines with their "We want Kent back!" pleas. Those who support Swain's style are just as vocal.

Enough already.

In the "old" days, back when Lyell Bremser was the Husker voice, he was the only way that many of us could "watch" the Huskers play. Oh, we would always get to watch Nebraska and Oklahoma play on TV during Thanksgiving week and, if we were really lucky, maybe the NCAA would deign to air an occasional Nebraska-Missouri game.

Most of the time, though, we depended upon Bremser to orally paint a picture for us of what was happening on the field. And Lyell was a master at it. Exhibit A shall be the legendary punt return for a touchdown by Johnny Rodgers in the epic 1971 battle against Oklahoma. Compare Bremser's closing comment of the play to that of Chris Schenkel, ABC's resident goldie throat.

Bremser: "He's all the way home!"

Schenkel: "Look at that man go."

Ears, horns and tail to Mr. Bremser, thank you.

But for the past 10 years or so, with the explosion of cable television, it is rare when a Husker game is NOT televised. Nebraska fans can grab the clicker almost any Saturday afternoon and find their beloved Big Red on the tube.

But for the past 10 years or so, with the explosion of cable television, it is rare when a Husker game is NOT televised. Nebraska fans can grab the clicker almost any Saturday afternoon and find their beloved Big Red on the tube.

From this corner, the play-by-play guy needs to provide five things: Score, time, down, distance and situation. The old way of describing a routine 2-yard run and making it sound like Red Grange's greatest open-field dash is passe. Most times, we are watching the game on TV and we can see for ourselves what happened.

Pavelka's critics claim he is a "homer" and that every call against the Huskers, in Pavelka's eyes (and voice), is a travesty of justice and some sort of Machiavellian plot against NU.

Swain's detractors say he is not "exciting." Interpret that to mean that Swain does not scream "Touchdown! Touchdown! Touchdown!" after every Nebraska score as Pavelka does in his trademark call of a game, even if it is the final score of a 62-0 blowout.

In their styles, Swain is like reading a solid, every-day Associated Press news story while Pavelka more resembles one of those sensational tabloids.

Truth be known, the mark of a good broadcaster is knowing when to be quiet.

I remember one Saturday afternoon when Nebraska was playing a key game at Missouri. We were pheasant hunting and trying to find the broadcast on the radio. Finally, we tuned in to one of the Missouri broadcasters just in time to hear the call of the game's key play. It went something like this:

"Nebraska, fourth and six at the Missouri 45. The Huskers might try something here with such good field position. No, they are in punt formation and will try to pin the Tigers deep. There's the snap..."

And for the next 20 seconds or so, there was silence on the airways. In the background, you could hear the crowd noise rise and fall, so we knew that something was happening, but the announcer remained mute. And finally, after what seemed an eternity, there was this: "Nebraska's John O'Leary has the ball and he is at the 10, the 5, touchdown Nebraska. We're not exactly sure what has happened, Tiger fans, but we will try to find out."

An honest call, if ever there was, of Nebraska's famed "Bummeroosky."

I enjoy Swain's professionalism. I also enjoy and am amused by Pavelka's enthusiasm. But do I really care who is the Husker play-by-play guy? No. Just give me the score, time, down, distance and situation and we'll get along fine.

The controversy is bound to continue. It has built a momentum of its own, and there is no indication that the "voice of the Huskers" brouhaha is waning among Nebraska fans. Both sides of the argument are screaming that it is time to stand up and be heard.

OK, in the case of Swain versus Pavelka, the view from this perch is that...I feel strongly both ways.

Let the games begin. ✦ *NSA*

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